

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT
SECRET

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
 SUBJECT Movements of Artillery by Rail

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1. The Soviet Army uses the former Henschel works at Annaburg (E-66) as an artillery repair depot. About 200 Russians are employed there. Guns arrive daily from the direction of Jessen (E-56) by rail. On 3 August, thirty guns were seen in Jessen, loaded two to a flatcar. These guns had split trails, pneumatic tires, double-baffle muzzle brakes, recoil cylinders above and below the barrels. The barrels were short and of an estimated 100 or 150 mm.
2. Anti-tank and AA guns have also been seen at Annaburg, although more rarely. The majority of guns arriving for repair are of the type described in paragraph one.
3. Just to the west of Jessen station, between the railroad and the road from Jessen to Wittenberg, is a closely-guarded ammunition depot with piles of crated ammunition.
4. Between 21 and 27 July 1948, seven trains, each carrying between 25 and 80 guns of varying types from the artillery depot at Ketschendorf, were dispatched westwards from Fürstenwalde. Railway personnel stated that the artillery trains plus one trainload of ammunition, were destined for Stendal.
5. On 2 August, a further trainload of 60 x 76.2 mm. guns was unloaded at Herrensee, near Schneidemühl (R-94). On 4 August, sixty new and unmarked trucks and field kitchen trailers were unloaded at Rehfelde (V-15). On 5 August, two trains, carrying a total of 142 x 122 mm. guns were unloaded at Golzow (V-09). Each gun was equipped with three loaded ammunition boxes. An unloading detail of eight officers and a company of EM arrived at Golzow from Berlin. The local citizenry states that such unloading details are now to be seen at many small railway stations, even in places where troops were formerly rarely seen.

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